

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated May 5, 2004, having a shortened statutory period set to expire August 5, 2004. Claims 1-14 are pending.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the present Office Action, Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Friedman* (U.S. Patent No. 5,499,294 – "*Friedman*").

Friedman teaches encrypting a digital photo using a private key inside a camera, and then sending the encrypted photo to a computer. The computer then decrypts the photo using a public key and compares that decrypted photo with another digital photo file. If the files are the same, then the digital photo file is deemed authentic. (*Friedman*, col. 4, lines 29-55).

With reference to exemplary Claim 1, *Friedman* does not teach or suggest a digital signature "being utilized only within said camera by only said camera." Authentication only within the camera affords a new and useful level of security, while minimizing the memory requirement of the camera. A shortened "hash" of the picture is permanently stored in the camera, and a hash of a picture to be authenticated is then loaded into the camera, where it is compared with the permanently stored hash.

TELECONFERENCE

Applicants note with appreciation the teleconference granted on August 3, 2004, held with Examiner Long and Primary Examiner Vu. The Examiners indicated that the above argument was persuasive, and that a new search will now be conducted, resulting in either a notice of allowance or a new non-final office action.

CONCLUSION

Absent a finding of newly discovered relevant prior art, Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

No extension of time for this response is believed to be necessary. However, in the event an extension of time is required, that extension of time is hereby requested. Please charge any fee associated with an extension of time as well as any other fee necessary to further the prosecution of this application to **IBM CORPORATION DEPOSIT ACCOUNT No. 50-0563**.

Respectfully submitted,



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